



The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

EXCITER

January 2009

Issue No. 454

LOOK INSIDE FOR DETAILS:

- The RARS General Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 pm on 146.64.
- The RARS Technical and Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 pm or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Column by Selene Montgomery KG4RMT, RARS President

A new year is upon us, and while it's always good to look back on where we've been, it's even more important to look ahead to where we're going.

The past year has been filled with the usual amateur radio activity – hamfests, public service events, classes, meetings, and the addition of new hams joining our ranks. The year ahead promises more of the same. Our new meeting location will make our gatherings more comfortable for everyone, and provide us with room to grow. Licensing classes will help to continue the ham practice of passing on the knowledge so important to the hobby. RARSfest and Field Day will continue to be the premier events on our calendar. Public Service Events will continue to need our support. The RARS website will continue to be modified and improved.

All of these activities are important, but none of them can continue without your assistance. Helping does not always involve being physically involved in an event. Sharing information by talking with others is a tremendous aid in keeping RARS' activities, and those of other clubs, in the limelight. Tell the officers and board members how you feel about issues that may come up, and share any ideas you may have about programs and events.

As the largest amateur radio club in this area, RARS cannot roll along smoothly just because of its size. It must have the active support of its members in order to be guided on a path that will assure its success and growth in the year ahead. Your participation will ensure that we have a positive review of the "old" year in January of 2010.

Happy New Year to all!

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing

radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family mem-

bers pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (RARS.org).



The *Exciter*

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcomes articles,

advertising, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

The submission deadline for the January *Exciter* is December 19. The submission deadline for the February *Exciter* is January 16.

All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

Editor:
Courtney Enzor
KI4HOS
editor@rars.org



The 2009 RARS officers were installed at the December meeting. For a complete list of officers, check out the general meeting minutes in the *Exciter*. Photo by Virginia Enzor NC4VA.

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: First Alliance Church
4400 Buffaloe Road
Raleigh, NC

Time: People begin arriving at 7 pm. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 pm.

RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family – feel free to bring your little ones! Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

Listen to the nightly RARS net and check rars.org for details on the next dinner's location.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.13 (82.5 PL), 146.64, & 444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 pm on the 146.64. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to checkin. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.



VE Testing

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSfest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSfest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

November 2008 RARS Net Reports

Checkins: 369	Special Interest Nets:
Traffic: 20/28	Checkins: 95
Minutes: 523	Minutes: 570
Sessions: 30	Sessions: 14

Upcoming Hamfests

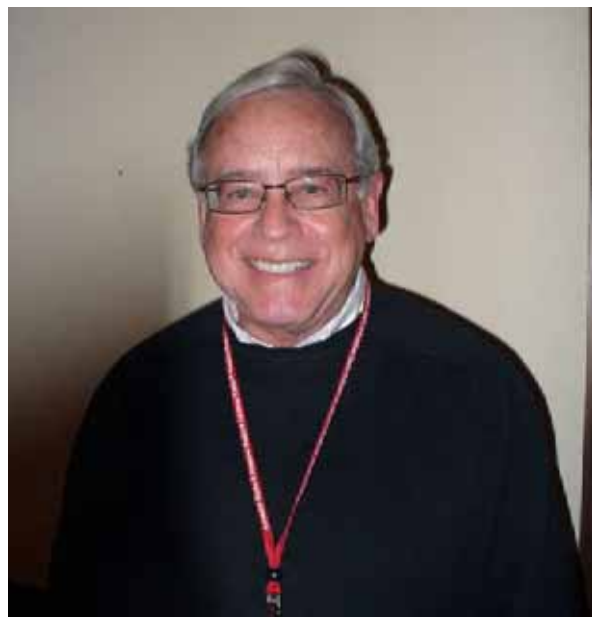
January 10	Winston-Salem FirstFest Winston-Salem, NC http://www.w4nc.com/
January 10	Greenwood Hamfest Greenwood, SC http://www.w4gwd.org/
January 10	TechFest 2009 Lawrenceville, GA http://www.gars.org/
February 7	FrostFest (ARRL State Convention) Richmond, VA http://www.frostfest.com/
February 7	Charleston Hamfest Ladson, SC http://www.wa4usn.org/

January RARS Meeting

The January program will be on software-defined radio. The meeting will be held at the First Alliance Church (4400 Buffaloe Road) in Raleigh @ 7:30 PM.

January Birthdays

Robert	N4GEB	01/01
Howard	KI4GNB	01/03
Jerry	KE4TTS	01/04
Cathleen	KC5UNQ	01/04
Chuck	K4HF	01/04
John	N4YRD	01/08
Jim	N4CAE	01/09
Beth	KF4QMR	01/09
Jim	KI4NQU	01/11
Ashby	KB5ZIH	01/20
Kerrell	WA4KGL	01/21
Ken	KI4OTO	01/28
Alan	AB4OZ	01/30
Cyndi	KD4ACW	01/30



Photos from
the December
RARS meeting
by Virginia
Enzor
NC4VA.



Minutes of the RARS General Meeting on December 2, 2008

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society held its monthly meeting on December 2, 2008 at the First Alliance Church on Buffaloe Road in Raleigh. There were 40 members and guests present. Among the guests were the prior pastor of the First Alliance Church, Arlie McGarvey and wife Nancy. The other guests were Kay, Sally and Judith.

Extensive refreshments were served at 7:00 PM. The meeting was called to order by President Selene KG4RMT at 7:30. She welcomed everyone to our holiday meeting and thanked those that had brought snacks. She then extended a special welcome to our visitors.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as published. Next, Greg KE4PAX made the treasurers report. We now have 244 members. Greg also reminded us that RARS is a 501(c) (3) corporation and donations are tax deductible.

The following announcements were made:

- The RARS monthly supper will be at Perkins Restaurant on Tuesday, December 9
- The Board meeting for December has been cancelled.
- Thanks to those that came early and helped set up. Help will be needed at the end of the meeting to clean up.
- As usual, everyone is invited to go to supper following the meeting.
- The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at the First Alliance Church.

Chuck K4HF then held installation of officers. For two-year officers: Greg KE4PAX Treasurer and Karl W4CHX VP. Board members for one year: John AI4RT Public Service, Gary KN4AQ Public Information, John AI4RT Hamfest Chair, Courtney KI4HOS Exciter Editor, Mary KG4OQA Net Manager, Rod KI4LSN At-Large Director, Steve KJ4BX At-Large Director, Ken KI4OTO At-Large Director, Gary KN4AQ FM Repeater Chair, Jeff AC4ZO W4DW & W4RNC Trustee, Chuck K4HF ARRL Liaison, Virginia NC4VA Education Director, and Hank K4HM Web Master. Committee chairmen: Mary Jo K4MJL Hospitality Chair, Mike WA4BPJ Field Day Chair, and Liz KO4CK and Joe WA4GIR VEC.

Chuck K4HF then advised of the QCWA meeting this Saturday, December 6 in Lexington and that anyone with 25 years as a ham was eligible and guests were welcome. The program for Saturday will be the CW Skimmer.

President Selene KG4RMT thanked Chuck and his committee for their hard work. The drawings were then held. The prizes were gift certificates. Nancy McGarvey, Greg KE4PAX, and Selene KG4RMT won prizes. William (KB4TKQ's little red headed kid that runs around bringing fun to the meetings) won the children's prize.

Our retiring VP Rick KB4TKQ announced the program for the evening, The Encore Singers.

We were then entertained with such songs as Come Let Us Adore Him, Let it Snow, Walking in a Winter Wonderland, Joy to the World, and Hark the Herald Angels Sing. As always, the Encore Singers did a

great job and helped put us in a Christmas spirit. Our thanks to the Encore Singers for another great program.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Note: Remember that our next meeting will be at the First Alliance Church.

NCER Emergency Disaster Communications Teams Seek Members

Article by Dave Tuttle NC4DT

(Zebulon) The 38th Regiment of the North Carolina Emergency Reserves (NCER) is seeking capable communications personnel to form a specialized Communications Unit for service in its 18-county area of operation.

NCER is a statewide disaster-response organization which has seven regimental areas established to cover the state in time of emergency. "Maintaining basic effective communication is among the top vital necessities in a disaster," says COL Dave Tuttle, the regiment's commander. "The ability to provide relief and rescue can't depend on downed or severed telephone lines, overloaded cell towers, or power outages that incapacitate e-mail and fax service."

"Even at the family level, a simple system of simple low-cost walkie-talkies can be a lifesaving forethought," Tuttle added. Simple FRS (Family Radio Service) radios can cost as little as \$12.00/pair.

Amateur Radio Operators, former military M.A.R.S. operators, and even long-time Citizens' Band (CB) hobbyists perform a vital function in disaster relief. NCER is seeking all of the above and more with an eye toward complete coverage of both localized areas and intrastate disaster zones. Members of ham radio and CB clubs, as well as former members of groups like REACT (Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams) will find a suitable place in NCER's plan.

While NCER has some of its own radio systems, members also use their own personal mobile and portable equipment to establish fully operational networks. The organization offers FREE communications training, as well as a wide variety of FREE training in other phases of disaster-response and FEMA courses at no charge.

An overall view of the group and its mission can be found on the official website at www.ncer.us, where there is also a page dedicated to the 38th RGT. The area of the 38th consists of the line of Harnett, Johnston, and Wayne counties going northward to the Virginia border, encompassing 18 counties in all.

General inquiries about membership in NCER may be directed through the website or by phone to (910) 717-2627. Questions specific to communications issues for the regiment can be directed to COL Tuttle (amateur call sign NC4DT) at (919) 269-3453 or via email at ncerpio@yahoo.com.



The **RARS Technical & Trader's net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.64 after the 8 pm RARS net.

Amateur Radio Nets



The **VOIP Hurricane net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 net** every Monday night at 7:30 pm. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Costal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.



CAROLINA 440
UHF Link System
www.carolina440.net

Join us every evening at 8 pm on the 146.64 repeater for the **RARS Two Meter net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcomed to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

The **PCTN (Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 pm on the 146.88. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check-in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 machine with a PL tone of 82.5.





Join the **Tarheel Short Wave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG)** net on Monday evenings @ 9 pm on 146.64. We discuss all areas of radio monitoring and welcome your logs! We also have a SWL/SIG meeting on the third Monday of the month in addition to our regular net.

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday at 9:15 pm on the 146.88 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.



January 27: "Aviation Forecasting" with Raleigh NWS Meteorologist-in-Charge Darin Figurskey KC2IPY.



Apex Emergency Response Communications Net

This net meets weekly each Sunday evening at 9:00 pm on the 146.64 repeater. The purpose of the net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet. The Apex ERC Net provides amateur radio emergency communications for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. All stations are invited to participate in this net.



The **Wake County ARES** net meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.88 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of Emergency Communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. www.wakeares.org.

The RARS

Exciter

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Future Meeting Information

The January meeting will be held at the First Alliance Church (4400 Buffalo Road) in Raleigh, NC on January 6. The program will be on software-defined radio.